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**Imagination
the missing
ingredient:
Djordjevic**

By ROGER SHERACK

Jovan Djordjevic, the new Blacktown Demon, is no newcomer to good soccer. Eleven times an amateur representative of Yugoslavia (Olympic selection) and once coached by the great Miljan Miljanic, he hopes to end his career in Australia.

He played for six years with the Yugoslav First Division team Napredak before coming to Australia and, according to Rale Rasic, is the "best player to come out of Yugoslavia in the past 10 years."

Djordjevic, voted best player on the ground in his first League outing against Brisbane Lions, is outspoken. During the past couple of months he was able to see at first hand the quality of Australian soccer, our players and the national team.

"I am pleasantly surprised by the standard," he said. "The physical side of the play is on par with the best in the world. There are around a lot of talented and skilful young players about but there is one ingredient that still has to come," said Djordjevic.

"Imagination in soccer is essential and I feel that in this department Australian players are way behind the world. A little bit of South American flair with the speed, enthusiasm and strength that is already at hand, and you would be looking towards better class of football."

"I get frustrated sometimes when I see players in tight situations panic. A little flick, short pass, or a mere one-two is all that is necessary to get out of trouble at most times. But players I have seen so far tend to smack the ball anywhere as if they wish to get rid of it."

"But I believe that proper coaching will eventually bring success to Australian shores."

What of his coach, Rale Rasic?

"I knew his name for a long time. He is one of the recognised world coaching figures and his success with the Australian team in 1974 is still hailed as one of the biggest successes by small soccer nations. For that reason alone I was very pleased to come to Blacktown City."

"Rasic has an enormous capacity as a coach and manager to see his players' problems. He is constantly encouraging players and is a most astute tactician. He is definitely on an even keel with Miljan Miljanic and I should know — I was coached by both," said the new Demon.

MARCONI BOSS SPEAKS OUT — p. 14 & 15

DAVIDSON:

Our No. 1

**Confidence:
I'm as
good as
any player'**

Older players reckon Alan Davidson's a big head. They resent his brashness. More to the point, they resent the remarkable progress made by the kid from Altona who, at the age of only 20, is regarded by many experts as Australia's No 1 soccer player.

National coach Rod Guttmann hailed Davidson as the star of the Socceroos' recent tour of Asia and Europe. Miroslav Blazevic, coach of Yugoslav team Dinamo Zagreb which drew 3-3 with Australia, described Davidson as "the complete player" and former Socceroos captain Johnny Warren says: "That boy is one hell of a talent."

Davidson has achieved such status after only two years in top competition, with South Melbourne Mallee in the nation-wide Phillips League. More over, Tony Henderson, more over, Peter Sharma, stand aside Gary Cole. It's the day of Davidson.

By Louis Schwab

How has he risen so high so fast?

Talent, that's how — and he's not too shy to admit it. He's soccer's Muhammad Ali.

But without the confidence, he wouldn't be what he is, he wouldn't dare take on the more senior stars whom he beats with such ease, he would shrink twice before setting off on times marching raids up the left flank and he would be very about holding the ball under pressure, waiting for team mates to stop panicking and regrouping.

His parents instilled in him the confidence that is now his stock in trade. "They always stood behind me when the chips were down," he says. "They had faith in me. When I was a kid and my confidence was down, it was they who pushed me to believe in myself. Some players play badly and it gets to them. With me, it makes me try harder. It makes me pull my finger out."

His parents are Gertude Keith Davidson who joined the Victorian Police Force four years ago after being a widow for most of his life, and his Japanese wife Kaneko. They met in Nara, Japan, where Keith was stationed from 1949 to 1953 at the naval depot.

**World Cup:
"We must
pull our
fingers out**

NRAA Commonwealth Games Athlete of the Year.

"They always say I'm over-confident," says Alan, "but you have to believe in yourself, and you have to follow up that belief with words and action. When I first played senior representative football, I felt a bit inferior because I didn't have the experience, but now I can look at any player in Australia and say, 'I'm as good as he is, maybe better. I can do anything any other player can do, although obviously I couldn't compete with Eddie Kranjcic in the air, for example.'

Davidson had his problems when he joined the revered Hellenes club from little Altona City in early 1973. He was the new young kid, the one to be hassled around.

Continued P. 2



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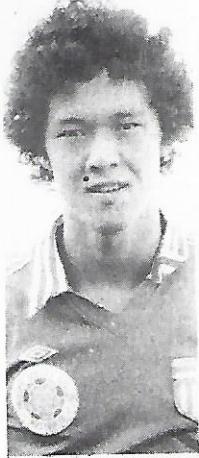
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'Hellas will win title' Kosmina should come back, says Davidson

★ ALAN DAVIDSON

From page one

"I'm playing on the same side of the field as Branko Buljevic, who's done it all," he recalls.

"He hollers at me, tells me off, orders me around. Then I decide I'm not taking it any more. I start hollering back, telling him he's not following his man, not doing his job. I stand up for myself. Now we're the best of mates. Course, they still tell me off if I do the wrong thing — especially Alan Evans the captain, but I do the same to them."

He found it necessary to stand up for himself in a similar way during the Socceroos' tour late last year. It happened after a training session in England.

"We finish up and Murray Barnes, the captain, tells me to carry out the training balls," Davidson says. "I say sure,



AI Grassby: Where are you now?

I'll carry the balls if you clean my boots. I would have picked up the balls anyway, but I don't like being ordered around."

What does he say to the suggestion he may be the best player in Australia today?

"I'd say thanks. But a week later I could be the worst. It all depends on form. If you keep playing well, you can afford to be confident. What can they say? But if you lose form,



Sports Minister Brian Dixon: Let's have more help.

they could come down on you like a ton of bricks. Maybe consistency is better than brilliance..."

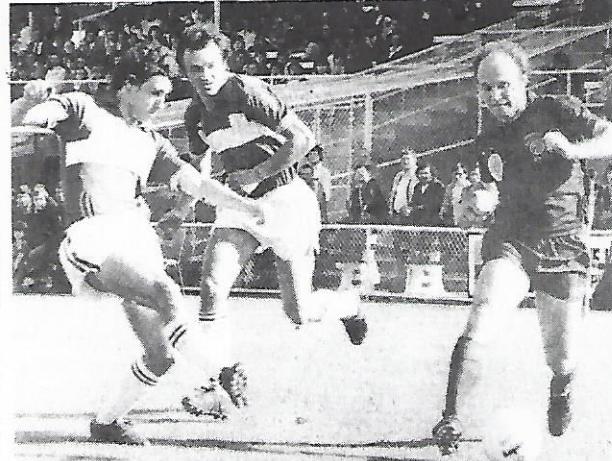
In Davidson's opinion, who is the best player in Australia?

"Gary Byrne of Marconi," he answers after a bit of thought.

"He seems to be able to control a game. He's an outlet. You give him the ball when things get tight and he'll solve the problems."

Davidson intends to try his luck overseas — probably England — and later on he wants to coach — "become the Ron Barassi of soccer."

But first he wants to make sure Australia qualifies for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain and that Hellas wins the Philips League championship. He also demands that soccer is finally given a square deal by the governments and the media which, he claims, are trying to hold the sport back.



Who's Australia's best player? Gary Byrne (left) of Marconi, says Davidson. Also pictured are Ivo Prskalo and Footscray's Mirko Rujevic (right).

HELLAS

About Hellas' chances, he says: "We'll win the championship because we've now got two players who can control the game in midfield — Jim Shirra and John Stevenson. Also we've got depth now, so the players have to give everything. We're carrying no-one this year, as John Margaritis has made clear with his fines so far. It will be no Mickey Mouse year."

About our World Cup chances, he says with typical bravado: "Forget all the blame they're trying to put on Rudi Gutendorf. That's all rubbish. We've got the players to make it. It's up to us to pull our fingers out. Let's stop looking for excuses. Defensively we have the players to keep it tight. Now we have to work out our attack. I'd like to see John Kosmina coming back into the squad. He's played for Australia before, and he had top soccer with Arsenal in England."

But Australian soccer could be much better with more support from the right quarters, he says.

"Yeah, especially the Minister for Sport," says Keith Davidson, joining the conversation. "How much government money does Aussie Rules get in comparison with soccer?"

SCARED?

"Australian soccer could be top-class. Australia could have a sport to be proud of internationally if we had the backing of the government and the media," Alan continues. "At the moment, everyone knocks soccer so as to preserve Aussie Rules. We represent this country all over the world, yet they kick us in the pants or they ignore us altogether."

"Are people scared of soccer, plain ignorant or do they think soccer's an inferior game? We get 10,000 to 20,000 people at Hellas matches yet the media practically ignores us."

Keith: "Look at the papers — six pages of Aussie Rules and one column on soccer. It's bloody shocking."

Alan: "At least we've got Channel 0 now — but the papers even hide the Channel 0 programme. They don't run it with the programmes of the other channels."

He's also angry about the Australian Soccer Federation's directive that clubs must drop ethnic names and that clubs in the Philips League must adopt American-type nicknames like Gunners, Raiders, Giants, and Hawks.

"It's a good case for Al Grassby to look into," he says. "The supporters want to keep names like Hellas, Croatia, Juventus,

influence on his development, Davidson has no hesitation in naming Ian Hynds, the former Altona City star who coached Davidson from under 12s to reserves.

"He let me be myself," says Alan. "He said he wanted to leave the cheekiness in me. He said a lot of coaches kill the personalities of young players, and yet the top players all are a bit cocky. He used to mention Johnny Giles, Billy Bremner and Kevin Keegan, all of whom are quick with an answer."

In the year of the world youth championships, which are to be held in Australia in October, Davidson stands as an example to young players with ambition.

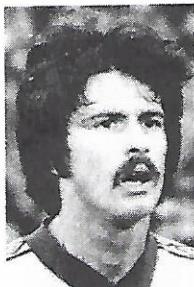
DIMITRIOU

It was at Altona East State that he switched from Aussie Rules to soccer at the age of nine. Fred Dimitriou, the Polonia player who was at high school at the time, coached Davidson's school team and Altona East became probably the foremost soccer school in the world.

"Generations of new soccer players are being produced by that school year by year," says Davidson. "There's been so many — Paul Petridis, Stan Lambrou, Ricky Lipiarski, Con and Jimmy Dimitriou, Angelo Meletis, Joe Herman, Larry Ostrowski, Richard Plessa, Sammy Deluca. If I sat down for an hour, I'd come up with a hundred players."

The boys from Altona East have their own heroes. They aim to be like Alan Davidson, the kid from Freemans Road who has been to Paraguay, Israel, Indonesia, England, Hong Kong, Brazil, New Zealand, Fiji and Italy because soccer has opened up the world to him.

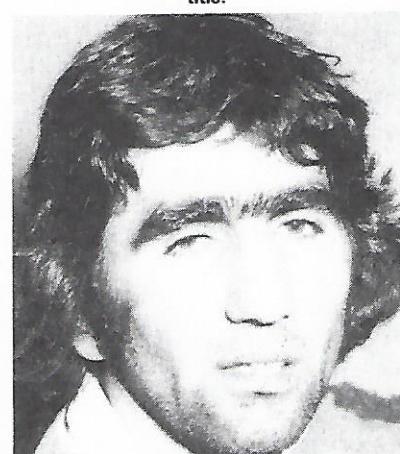
"On Monday nights, I get together with other old Altona East guys and we go down to the school to have a kick and to help out the local kids," he says. "Twenty or thirty of them crowd around as soon as we get there. It's a big kick for them and it's a big kick for us to be able to help them, to put a bit back, you know."



Socceroo captain Murray Barnes (left) and Hellas star Branko Buljevic — Davidson was the new kid, but he stood up to both of them.



John Stevenson (left) and Jim Shirra — the midfielders who will power Hellas to the PSI title.

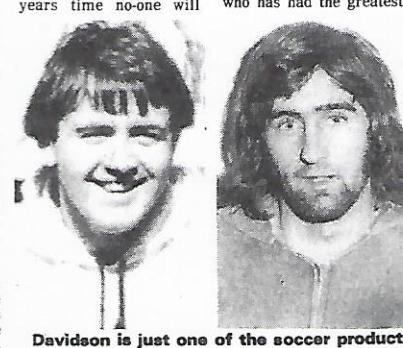


Fred Dimitriou of Polonia — he made Altona East State probably the foremost soccer school in the world.

the fans. How are the supporters supposed to identify with names like Raiders and Gladiators? In a few years time no-one will

know which club is which."

Asked to name the coach who has had the greatest



Davidson is just one of the soccer products of Altona East State. Here are three more from left: Angelo Meletis (Heidelberg), Joe

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What can you teach us Rudi?

Rudi Gutendorf continues to complain that his players are not fit enough. He says, quite rightly, that it is the clubs' responsibility to make them fit.

On behalf of all coaches, allow me to ask you a few things, Rudi.

You have been here three years now, and if it was obvious to you that the players weren't fit enough, why didn't you do something about it?

Why didn't you set a suitable training programme for the PSL coaches to follow?

I've been looking to you since you arrived, hoping to learn something from your wealth of experience in the game.

However, I have yet to have the pleasure of seeing you working on physical conditioning, or conducting a session on technical and tactical preparation.

Instead, when I've attended training, I've seen the work of Vlasits, Corry, McKendry, Scheinfled, Baumgartner, Boggi, and others.

If the players are indeed unfit, Rudi, why don't you organise a seminar for all the PSL coaches and lecture us on your requirements. I'm sure the clubs would be delighted to send their coaches to such a seminar.

This would be much more constructive than continually criticising the club coaches for failing to have their players fit.

Frank Arok and Joe Venglos were in the country for a shorter time than you, Rudi, and they organised seminars on physical fitness and tactical preparation for top players.

I still have papers written by Venglos.

Your latest fitness-related criticism dealt with Tony Henderson and Eddie Kravcic. We need these players like gold. I saw Henderson tearing apart Sydney City in the charity game, so his poor form against South Melbourne was, I dare say, due to the intense heat.

You must know, Rudi, that the British players cannot stand the heat. Just ask Dixie Deans, Adrian Alston, Mike Denton and present players like Gary Cole (even though he has spent more time in Australia than he did in England).

I hope the heat of two weeks ago has dis-



RALE RASIC

couraged any talk of summer soccer. As Jimmy Rooney was quoted: "It's summer madness, not summer soccer."

Wolves, Arrows, Hawks, Gladiators ... what the hell is going on?

Is that all the ASF marketing group could learn from the United States?

I spend two months there and I observed the expert way they market and promote the game. There are so many more significant things than nicknames.

Are we ashamed about the background of our clubs? Surely Arrows doesn't mean more to supporters than Canberra City?

It's simply confusing. The public must think we're developing new clubs every year.

What's wrong with the names selected when the PSL kicked off in 1977. They were sound and sensible. Our spectators will need 10 years to readjust to these silly nicknames.

How times change. In 1972 the Australian team tackled Pele's Santos after the players had assembled the previous night. Some even arrived at the motel the morning of the match. Now we hear complaints about insufficient preparation...

If ever there was the model sportsman, he must be Peter Freeman, the Blacktown goalkeeper.

He recently lost his father-in-law and his daughter was seriously ill, yet he still consented to help out his club by sitting on the bench during the match against Brisbane Lions.

To Peter and wife and family: I wish you happiness.

The heat of two weeks ago has dis-

Campbell adds bite to Wolves' attack

Star of Wollongong Wolves' squad for their initial Philips' Soccer League campaign is undoubtedly New Zealand international winger Clive Campbell.

After gaining North Island under-16 representative honours in 1968, Campbell burst into senior soccer two years later being a key member of the Blockhouse Bay team which achieved a rare National League and Cup double.

In the same season he appeared for the Auckland Provincial selection which gained memorable wins over FC

By PAUL MOON

Zurich and Queensland before graduating into the New Zealand XI which opposed touring Hong Kong club side Jardines.

Unfortunately his international career was not a success and it was seven years before Campbell again donned a New Zealand shirt.

In the interim he made five appearances for the national under-21 team and 11 for Auckland, including games against

distinguished tourists Dundee, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Hertha Berlin, Bristol Rovers, Glasgow Rangers and Manchester United.

Consistent and durable, the diminutive winger was ever-present throughout five successive National League seasons with Auckland clubs Blockhouse Bay and Eastern Suburbs.

A move to a third Auckland club, Mount Wellington, in 1976 was to prove the turning point of Campbell's career.

Surrounded by players of equal ability and under the astute coaching of John Houghton, his game improved dramatically and a return to international duty was inevitable.

Recalled for New Zealand in 1977, the Aucklander made five appearances for his country that year, including World Cup eliminators against Taiwan and Australia.

Eleven more "caps" followed, to add to three National League Champions' medals, two Cup Winners' medals and the 1978 Auckland Player of the Year Award. Today he is rated amongst the finest wingers produced by New Zealand.

Unless a remarkable loss of form is suffered, Campbell — a creative and skilled performer — will add bite to the Wolves' attack.

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SIR ARTHUR WARNS OF BREAKAWAYS

New constitution for the ASF?

Five-a-side complex

Provision will be made for five-a-side soccer in the proposed new sports complex on the site of the Melbourne Olympic pool, next to Olympic Park.

The Victorian Minister of Youth, Sport and Recreation, Brian Dixon, said the complex was planned as one of the venues for the 1988 Olympic Games which he hopes will be staged in Melbourne.

Mr Dixon was speaking at a dinner organised last week by Melbourne Soccer Club of which he is patron.

He told the gathering of about 80 that the Victorian Government had spent \$322,000 on soccer over the past five years.

This year \$37,400 had been allocated for the promotion and development of soccer and \$31,000 to the soccer grounds development fund.

result of marketing and licensing, he said.

"The cost of soccer in this country is astronomical," he added.

"The 16 PSL clubs spent a total of \$4.5 million last year and got only a small financial back at the gate."

"These costs cannot be raised in the traditional way. If we go the traditional way, we cannot make soccer big-time."

"Professional sport is a business and if we're going to be in that business, we've got to be the best, we have to make every goal a winning goal. That's the way the world is going."

Sir Arthur said full use had to be made of the vast number of junior players (422,000 nation-wide) and that he was pleased therefore that the national team included eight players who had developed their soccer here.

A national youth development programme was needed.

And this highlighted another mammoth problem in Australian soccer — sectionalisation.

He explained that at the moment the ASF is controlled by three votes



Sir Arthur George

from Victoria, three from NSW and one each from six other States and that the delegates represent State and metropolitan leagues.

No-one speaks for the juniors, amateurs, referees, the 18 universities or the women players.

"We must stop this sectionalisation of interests, and harness all of soccer under one umbrella, as one large family," he said.

Perhaps I will put you to the test very shortly by asking you to alter the constitution of the ASF."

He warned of possible breakaways if the present system is maintained. "The juniors could take off on their own as a separate body, and the amateurs too," he said.

The professionals could do the same, and the women, and also indoor soccer, which we hope to start soon."

"To stand still in the eighties is to go backwards," he added. "Progress is relative. If you don't move while others do, then you're moving backwards."

Sir Arthur asked the gathering of about 80 people at the dinner to consider the value of having the names on all junior players on a computer and offering those names to companies, in return for cash, to post advertising material. "We'd get a fortune for that alone," he said.

ASF loses \$25,000

ASF president Sir Arthur George said last week that the cancellation of the Socceroos' match against Nacional of Uruguay meant that the \$60,000 anticipated profit from the game had turned into a \$25,000 loss to the ASF.

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Newcastle KB	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	4:0	4
South Melbourne	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	3:2	3
Brisbane City	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	3:2	3
Sydney City	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	2:1	3
Canberra	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1:0	3
West Adelaide	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	3:2	2
Marconi	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1:1	2
Footscray	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	2:4	2
Leichhardt	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	3:4	1
Brisbane Lions	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2:3	1
Adelaide City	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0:1	1
Sydney Olympic	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	2
Blacktown	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	2:4	1
Heidelberg	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	2:5	1
Preston	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0:2	0

PHILIPS LEAGUE TEAM OF WEEK

In brackets: the number of appearances in this team

MAHER (1) (Marconi)	ZEROS (1) (Olympic)	PERRY (1) (Brisb C)	DAVIDSON (2) (Sth Melb)
REANEY (1) (Newc)			
T. BYRNE (2) (Canberra)	ILIOSKI (1) (Footscray)	BOYLE (1) (W. Adel)	BROWN (1) (Preston)
C. CAMPBELL (2) (W'gong)		MITCHELL (1) (Adel C)	

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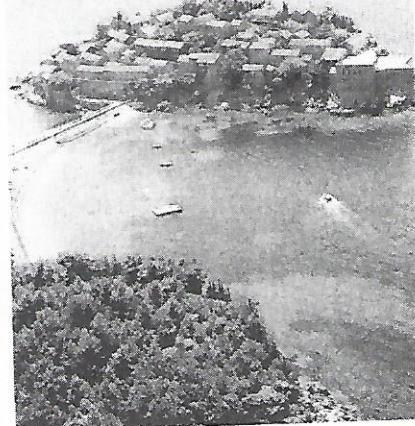


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Day 6 Saturday - SPLIT/DUBROVNIK.

Day 7 Sunday - DUBROVNIK.

Day 8 Monday - DUBROVNIK.

Day 9 Tuesday - DUBROVNIK/MOSTAR.

Day 10 Wednesday - MOSTAR/SARAJEVO.

Day 11 Thursday - SARAJEVO/BEGLGRADE.

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As last year, the best player in the national league and a companion will fly to Europe with Yugoslav Airlines.

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The air tickets to Europe are strictly NON TRANSFERABLE. Neither can they be exchanged for cash or sold.

The tickets must be used in the period from November 1, 1981 to April 1, 1982.

Votes are cast on a 6-5-4-3-2-1 basis for each game. In case of a tie, the winner of the award will be decided on a countback.

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THIS WEEK'S VOTES

- * HEIDELBERG 0 WOLLONGONG 3 (McBreen, Morton, Dunleavy) at Olympic Park. Votes by Laurie Schwab:
6. C. Campbell (W), 5. Adams (W), 4. Lathan (W), 3. Rooney (H), 2. Ieracevski (W), 1. McBreen (W).
- FOOTSCRAY 2 (Kondarlos, Vasic) LEICHARDT 1 (O'Connor) at Schnitter Reserve. Votes by Dick Prendergast:
6. Illoki (F), 5. Jovanovic (F), 4. Kondarlos (F), 3. Kyriakoules (F), 2. Simic (F), 1. O'Connor (L).
- SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Laing, Koussas) SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Christopoulos, 1. incl. pen) at Sydney Sports Ground. Votes by Tom Anderson:
6. Zeros (SO), 5. Rowden (SO), 4. V. Bannon (SM), 3. Davidson (SM), 2. Cork (SO), 1. Christopoulos (SM).
- BRISBANE LIONS 0 NEWCASTLE KB 1 (Buckley) at Richlands. Votes by Bruce Waddell:
6. Reeney (N), 5. Ontong (BL), 4. Hermitson (BL), 3. Drinkwater (N), 2. Bergota (N), 1. Millman (N).
- CANBERRA CITY 0 ADELAIDE CITY 0 at Bruce Stadium. Votes by Peter Windsor:
6. T. Byrne (C), 5. Mitchell (AC), 4. Stark (C), 3. D. Cole (C), 2. Jones (C), 1. Marshall (AC).
- WEST ADELAIDE 2 (McGregor, Boyle) BLACKTOWN 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium. Votes by Meno Toutsidis:
6. Boyle (WA), 5. Bozanic (WA), 4. McGregor (WA), 3. Pollock (B), 2. McKie (WA), 1. Tymczyszyn (WA).
- SYDNEY CITY 1 (Boden Pen.) BRISBANE CITY 1 (Coldwell) at Sydney Sports Ground. Votes by Ted Smithies:
6. Perry (BC), 5. Bellini (SC), 4. Boden (SC), 3. Hamilton (BC), 2. Pimblett (BC), 1. Spanos (SC).
- MARCONI 1 (Krnjevic) PRESTON 0 at Marconi Stadium. Votes by Tony Saksic:
6. Brown (P), 5. Maher (M), 4. Cullen (P), 3. Tomasevic (M), Petrovski (P), 1. Colusco (M).
- Progress votes:
12. C. Campbell (W), T. Byrne (C).
10. Boyle (WA).
9. Hermitson (BL), Mitchell (AC).
8. Davidson (SM), Reeney (Newc).
6. Illoki (F), Zeros (SO), Bergota (Newc), Bozanic (WA), Perry (BC), Barnes (SC), Brown (P), Maher (Marc), Evans (SM), Coe (BC), Pezzano (SC), P. Wilson (L), Djordjevic (Block), McClelland (Newc).
- Top scores:
2. C. Campbell, McBreen (W), Hughes (L), McClelland, Buckley (Newc), Christopoulos (SM).

Xanthopoulos—Paton clash is decisive

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

South Melbourne and Heidelberg hate each other.

Just ask the players and supporters from either side.

It's not just a game when these sides clash, it's a battle with pride and prestige at stake.

Winning doesn't just mean good wages for the victorious players. The fans bet heavily on each clash and a rich fan is a happy fan.

There should be almost 10,000 fans at Middle Park this Sunday but there will be a few sad fans at the game's end. South Melbourne boasts its best-ever PSL line-up, there are not many clubs in Australia with more of the quality of Bertie Lutton, Duncan Cummings and George Christopoulos on the reserves bench as South Melbourne had in its opening PSL encounter against Marconi.

Heidelberg still is trying to adapt to the style of new coach Manny Poulikakis and without the injured Jim Tansley its fine PSL record against South Melbourne is seriously imperilled.

One of the crucial factors in this clash will be the Arthur Xanthopoulos-Jamie Paton clash.

Xanthopoulos struggled against Paton last year when forced to turn quickly. Paton is well aware of this flaw in Xanthopoulos's armoury and is keen to exploit it.

If Xanthopoulos is relieved of his stopper's responsibilities and moved back to sweeper, Paton probably will push up onto him. How South Melbourne coach John Margaritis solves this dilemma could prove to be the decisive factor of the match.

Steve Blair has tagged Gary Cole before so he should be given the awesome task again. Blair seems to have the pace and concentration to make Cole's job difficult.

But South Melbourne rarely does well against Heidelberg when using five men at the back. Last year South Melbourne full backs Vince Bannon and Alan Davidson were expected to break forward and the same tactic could apply on Sunday.

The midfield battle should be interesting as South Melbourne is far stronger in this department than it was last year.

The inclusion of John Stevenson and Jim Shirra has added a creative quality to the midfield which should reap rewards for players further afield, like Alan Evans and Branko Buljevic.

South Melbourne has a second-to-none chance of establishing superiority over its arch enemy with an early season win.

But it's now or never as far as 1981 is concerned.

This weekend's PSL clashes with likely winners in capitals.

IN MELBOURNE
SOUTH MELBOURNE v Heidelberg
at Middle Park, Sunday, 3 pm;
PRESTON v Sydney Olympic at Connor Reserve, Sunday, 3 pm.

IN SYDNEY
SYDNEY CITY v West Adelaide at Burton Stadium, Sunday, 3 pm.
LEICHHARDT v Brisbane Lions at Lambert Park, Sunday, 3 pm.

IN NEWCASTLE
NEWCASTLE v Blacktown at the International Sports Centre, Sunday, 3 pm.

IN BRISBANE
BRISBANE CITY v Canberra at Spencer Park, Sunday, 3 pm.

IN ADELAIDE
Adelaide City v MARCONI at Hindmarsh Stadium, Sunday, 2.30 pm

IN WOLLONGONG
WOLLONGONG v Footscray at the Wollongong Showgrounds, Sunday, 3 pm.

At Connor reserve, Preston should gain its first PSL home win against Tommy Docherty's Sydney Olympic.

"The Doc" will find Preston dynamo Rob Cullen a handful. Tip help the poor Olympic defender given the task.

Once Doug brown settles in he's sure to do well.

Brown, George McMillan and Peter Ollerenshaw represent the greatest threat to Olympic keeper Gary Meier's attempts to keep a clean sheet.

With the support of the fanatical Preston fans the home side should take both points.

Sydney city should add to its momentum toward the 1981 PSL title with a home win over struggling West Adelaide.

Wests' coach Billy Birch is shackled by a tight budget and has been unable to drastically revamp the squad which finished second-last in the 1980 PSL.

But Birch's charges are sure to give a spirited display until the Slickers' class tells. There seems little likelihood of Wests' defence stopping John Kosmina, Willie Murray and Kenny Boden.

It seems that home sides are in a good position to nab both points from this weekend's round with the only exception being Marconi which visits Hindmarsh Stadium and should scrape home against Adelaide City.



Rudi Gutendorf

TOO MANY KIWIS IN PSL: RUDI

National coach Rudi Gutendorf has hit out at the Philips League for importing too many of Australia's "enemies" from New Zealand and for failing to get its players fit.

"I am angry that the PSL clubs bring so many New Zealand players here. This is not a help to the national coach," Gutendorf said at a press conference in Melbourne.

"It is like working against the national team, because those same New Zealand players will face us in the World Cup elimination rounds. New Zealand's national league is not as strong as ours,

and the players could not achieve as high a standard playing there."

"But now our own local PSL coaches are making the New Zealanders fit to maybe beat us in the World Cup. It is perverse."

Gutendorf was referring to Steve Summer (Newcastle), Michael Wilson, Duncan Cole (Canberra), Clive Campbell, Brian Turner (Wollongong) and Glen Dods (Adelaide City), all New Zealand internationals.

Prompted by the poor form of Marconi's Socceroo players in the match against South Melbourne last Sunday, Gutendorf said:

"The art is to be fit when counts. Marconi, I think, has worked too hard at training."

"It is important to have our national players fully fit for the game against New Zealand on April 25 but it is not up to me to make them fit. That is up to the clubs and the club coaches."

"Clubs train three times a week but for international level this is not good enough. I see players are not fit at the start of the season — and to

lose your first home game is a terrible thing."

Gutendorf dropped another bombshell in announcing he would ask the ASF to schedule all World Cup home fixtures for either Melbourne or Canberra.

He said he strongly opposes playing in Sydney.

"In Sydney we have problems," he said. "They send us to the Cricket Ground, they won't let us make training. I am not interested in Sydney. They treat us very bad there."

"In Melbourne we drew with Czechoslovakia and Northern Ireland. The players feel better in Melbourne — or in Canberra, too — they are looked after better."

Gutendorf said Australia should be proud of the many young local players in the national squad.

"I am German and I am only passing through but you as Australians should be proud of these boys. Even if we do not qualify for the World Cup, we now have a lasting national team."

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The "Soccer Action" goalkeeper of the year will receive a Seiko watch from Konstantine Jewel Box, Melbourne.

The winner will be the goalkeeper who has appeared most often in the "Soccer Action" team of the week.

This week's top goalkeeper is ALLAN MAHER of Marconi.

TOP MATCHES ON VIDEO

Dunlop Sports Footwear has joined forces with Sports Video Films Australia to bring an exciting series of soccer films into Australian lounge rooms.

Dunlop spokesman Terry Seasy was enthusiastic about the project called "Great Moments in Australian Soccer."

The Dunlop offer involves five video films and is an excellent opportunity for clubs, schools or private individuals to acquire top class coverage of Australian soccer in full color with live commentary.

The present films on offer include the England v Australia centenary match, the recent representative clash between NSW and Dinamo Zagreb, Wollongong Wolves' opening PSL encounter against Sydney Olympic and the 1980 Philips grand Final between Heidelberg and Sydney City.

A well produced coaching film on soccer skills is included in Dunlop's offer which will give Australian soccer the coverage it needs in this all important World Youth Cup Finals year.

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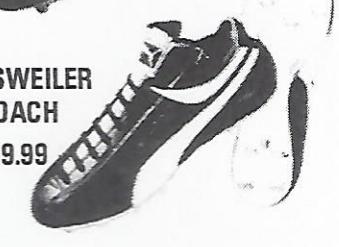
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Bozanic and Boyle spike the Demons

West Adel. 2
Blacktown 0

Crowd: 2700
Weather: Fine

Ground: Hindmarsh Stadium

Cautions: Hormazabal (B), Wallace (B)

Referee: Graham Neale

WEST ADELAIDE: Crook 7, Ryall 2 (head 20th), Tymczyszyn 8, Topas 7, Bozanic 5, McGahey 7, Boyle 9, McKie 8, McGregor 8, Narris 5, Manecas 5.

BLACKTOWN: Jones 7, Wheatey (Rasmussen 75th), Pollard 8 (Wallace 46th) Point 7, Milovanovic 5, Salvage 7, Djordjevic 8, Hormazabal 7, Culina 7, O'Donnell 7, Cuk 6.

If Raleasic can guide Blacktown Demons to the PSL championship, then he will be able to walk on Sydney Harbour.

There is a mammoth task facing this irrepressible coach who is probably the only man in Australia who could lead Blacktown to success.

Make no mistake about it — the Demons are much weaker than last year.

The acquisition of Mike Milovanovic, who played terribly against the Hawks, and Jovan Djordjevic could have its effect later, but for the moment Blacktown will have to get used to fighting rear-guard actions.

They were beaten by a side which, although it should have won by a bigger margin and had to contend with negative tactics, never looked impressive.

It was left to the individual commitment of Peter Boyle, Vic Bozanic and the solid defence of Peter Tymczyszyn to help the Hawks to their first win of the season.

The Hawks opened the scoring after five minutes when McGregor, looking suspiciously offside, was allowed enough time to let the ball bounce three times before firing a shot from 20 metres.

After 80 minutes of frustration, near misses and superb job from Manecas which struck the bar from 30 metres, the Hawks clinched the win with a Boyle special.

McGahey struck a close range shot, the ball was cleared off the goal line and rebounded to Boyle who rushed in and slammed a first time shot from 35 metres into the roof of the net beyond James' outstretched fingers.

Blacktown's best scoring opportunity came early in the second half when Branko Culina headed brilliant only to see Murray Crook back from injury, fling himself backwards for a super save.



Meno Toussidis

MATCH RATING:

6

Peter Cuk also had his moment late in the game but from 10 metres and with only Crook to beat, shot weakly.

But the prize for the most appalling miss goes to Mane-

cas. With goalkeeper James caught out of position, Manecas had the simple chance of sticking a foot to the ball from five metres, but stumbled and slipped.

Blacktown, which can draw solace from their second-half performance, when it looked capable of stealing a point, had one major injury. Peter Cuk has his nose broken in a clash with Stratja Topaz late in the game.



Waiting for a high ball — Theo Selemidis (left) of Heidelberg and Billy de Graaf of Wollongong.

Help from Hellas, Yugoslavia, Eire

Footscray 2 Leichhardt 1

Scorers: Kondaros 15m, Vasic 44m, O'Connor 24m.

Ground: Schintler Reserve

Attendance 1951. Referee Stuett Mellings 7.

FOOTSCRAY: Boland 6; Petrov 6 (Hazard 77m), Kynikouloas 7, Kondaros 7, Milne 6; Belic 6 (Curovic 55m), Piccione 6, Jovanovic 7, Iloski 7, Simic 7, Vasic 6.

LEICHARDT: Woodhouse 6; Skellern 6, Pullen 6, Wilson 6, McAusland 5, Coyne 6, Harding 5, Gray 79m, Kafka 5, Hughes 5, Pirie 5, O'Connor 7.

Cautions: Pullen.

Footscray J.U.S.T. was expected, as we went to Press, to sign speedy South Melbourne Hellas forward Steven Kakantolis on loan.

A young striker by the name of Dragoevic, ap-

parently recommended by Zdravko Lujic who is in Yugoslavia, also is expected to join, and Footscray is said to be considering two players from Eire.

Coach Cedo Cirkovic was at a loss to define whether Footscray had been so good or whether Leichhardt had been so poor. "We were a completely different side to the one which played Newcastle," he said.

"On the other hand Leichhardt was disappointing. I had expected a harder game but I realised after 10 minutes we didn't need to play with five defenders."

"We dominated the mid-

field which was the key to the game and we were unlucky not to score at least another goal.

He was in the thick of most things, as was Slobodan Jovanovic, but was unlucky not to have got on to the scoresheet, hitting the post with a scorcher in the second half.

At one stage on the Saturday, Brisbane's PSL match, for the second week running, had been in grave doubt, but the ground made a miraculous recovery.

It was noticeable before the match that KB's Phil Dando wore gloves, while Lowndes did not, a somewhat surprising decision considering the surface was a little heavy.

At one stage on the Saturday, Brisbane's PSL match, for the second week running, had been in grave doubt, but the ground made a miraculous recovery.

As expected, it was a match very much dominated by def-

enders and only the Lowndes

slip prevented a scoreless

draw, which looked odds-on

even before half time.

The heat took its toll early, and midfielder David Jones, obviously distressed, was replaced by Bob Mountford in the 31st minute.

Lions finished a little stronger when striker Calvin Daunt replaced midfielder Gerry Lindsay but the only real hope they had was when Ron Millman appealed strongly for a penalty when he thought he had been obstructed by Arno Bertogna in the last few minutes.

As always, a Lions official said of Lowndes' decision: "He doesn't like wearing gloves." No doubt he will do them in future, after this fiasco.

The Raiders generally were a little disappointing, considering their impressive first round victory, which had them haled in some quarters as likely title contenders.

That Lions had to forfeit a vital point was due largely to a fatal error by goalkeeper Nigel Lowns in the third last minute, when a scoreless draw seemed a just and inevitable last year.

Two things emerged from this sorry match for Brisbane Lions: they still don't have a match-winning central striker, but on the positive side, their defence is just as reliable as last year.

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Two things emerged from this sorry match for Brisbane Lions

Krncevic shows his 'Roo value

**Marconi 1
Preston 0**

Goal: Krnecovic

Ground: Marconi Stadium

Crowd: about 4600

MARCONI: Maher 8 —

Bogner 6, Muir 7, Prskalo 7

(captain), Byrne 6, Byrne 6, Raskopoulos 5 (Calusso 7,

46th), Henderson 5 — Sherne

6, Krnecovic 5.

PRESTON: Kastner 7 — Flavell 6, Petrovski 7, Higham 7,

Beech 6 — Faulkner 5, McMillan 6, Luchchesi 7, Brown 8 —

Cullen 7, Ollerton 7.

Eddie Krnecovic, the tall

Soccer striker, scored the

only goal of the game to give

Marconi this much needed

start in its chase for points in

this year's title race, but

neither Krnecovic nor Marconi

looked championship material

at all.

Marconi battled hard for

these points and appeared

slipping on the slippery Boley Park

surface. Preston ob-

viously content to play for a

draw, had at times nine and

ten men back in its penalty

area, relying on quick breaks

forward.

In fact, Marconi attacked

furiously in the first 20

minutes and came close to

scooping through Peter Sharne

and Tony Henderson.

Robbie Cullen had an ideal

opportunity for the visiting

Rams after a good header by

Peter Ollerton. The ball rolled

some seven metres from goal

and directly into the path of

Cullen who headed it wide.

The more the game went on,

the more Preston became

prominent, attacking with zest

and purpose. Luchchesi's effort

in the 33rd minute was saved

by the diving Dragan Toma-

schich, then Doug Brown's cross

was deflected towards Maher

when it appeared destined to

land in the path of Cullen.

Preston continued to play an

attractive brand of soccer with

Brown, Cullen and Luchchesi

making life difficult for the

Marconi defence. Alan Maher

was almost beaten in the 51st

minute following a good cross

by Luchchesi and a scorching

header by McMillan which just

cleared the crossbar.

It was apparent with only

half an hour to go that one goal

would settle the issue and Marconi

looked championship material

again.

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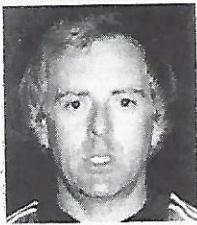
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Manny Poulakakis



Len McKendry

"The biggest problem in the world could have been solved when it was small."

I am sure this is what the directors of Heidelberg have learned over the past two weeks as they have watched their team struggle to get one point out of a possible four.

No doubt all sections of soccer in Australia are talking about the demise of Heidelberg this season.

How could such a magnificent team be on the end of a 3-0 hammering at home by newcomer Wollongong?



TOM ANDERSON

Obviously there will be some hard talking when the post mortem over Sunday's loss is held.

And I suppose if this form continues, heads will roll and changes will be made — this is always the way in our set-up.

Obviously to all lovers of the game the fall from grace by Heidelberg is a great shock — and I'm no exception here.

They are still the always hard-headed and I take pride in having a close friendship with Jimmy Rooney, Jim Tansley, Jack Reilly, Gary Cole and Theo Selemides.

I also respect present coach Manny Poulakakis and former coach Len McKendry and admire all these who have done for Australian soccer.

In such a situation, I do not want to take sides and blame anyone.

But I will take a look at the predicament this great club has got itself into.

Through a tragic chain of circumstances, the players and the two coaches — Poulakakis and McKendry — are all involved in the Heidelberg disaster.

What disaster, you may say? They've lost only one game and managed a draw away from home.

Well to be honest, I must say that I can see the present situation going from bad to worse if it is not rectified.

Here are the cold facts about Heidelberg and again, I must state I am not taking sides, but only highlighting the

problems that can befall a top club in this day and age.

After a highly successful season last year, Heidelberg and coach McKendry failed to come to terms and McKendry left the club.

In doing this, he left behind a squad of players dedicated to him and his methods.

The ultimate success of any coach is to have the complete confidence and faith of his players. McKendry had this and indeed still has it at Heidelberg.

Although gone from the club, McKendry still comes into contact with the nucleus of the team as Victoria's State coach.

McKendry may be gone from Heidelberg but his shadow still looms over the club.

With the coaching position vacant, Manny Poulakakis was asked to take the job, and he did so.

READERS' FORUM

RIDICULOUS!

SIR — Ridiculous! That's what I call statements from Frankston City officials in last week's "Soccer Action".

The rubbish that has been spread about Mick McGorrian has to stop because I have spoken to our lawyer and Slavia will not sit back while others try to force wrong public opinions about us.

Previously Slavia's policy was to ignore such comments but it allowed the wrong image to be projected. We have to change that situation.

When we found that Frankston had approached McGorrian without our permission we told them to keep clear. McGorrian is our contract player yet he continued to make approaches to him.

They also made statements that it is ridiculous to ask for \$6,000 for a player.

Has everyone forgotten about Steve Aldridge?

We gave Aldridge money and paid his air fare for a holiday. He returned, received a signing-on fee then vanished two weeks later. Getting a player for \$800 doesn't mean that this is the only amount of money that player is worth.

There's one club which bought a Slavia player for \$7,500 and is asking about \$200,000 for him. Why do people

always refer to our player deals? What about other clubs?

As far as I am concerned McGorrian is worth at least \$12,000 to us!

We will tell the VSF to take strong action.

I am sorry if that action involves Frankston because the relationship between our clubs was good in the past. But the present Frankston leadership has ruined that relationship.

Frankston's officials can only influence the local player market by their comments.

I have three players who have come to Slavia on trial fees and they are asking for \$1500 to sign-on or else they will not join us. I'm sure those players were advised to ask for a ridiculous sum. Can you imagine what Gary Cole or George Gole would must go to now if these supposed players can command such a fee?

Players have learned to try to blackmail clubs but let me warn you that our attitude is changing.

Some people claim that Slavia is responsible to fulfil its contractual responsibilities. Sure that's the case alright. But from now on any players who don't fulfil their contractual responsibilities will have to suffer the consequences.

The most important thing for Slavia is to stop the ratbags who are influencing our players and hindering our progress.

— TONY VRZINA,
Slavia coach

UNINFORMED

SIR — As president of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation, I would like to comment on a statement made by Mr Tom Anderson on February 11 in the article "PSL Becomes A Company".

In discussing the fact that PSL does not have a say in their own affairs, Mr Anderson made the following statement:

"It's just ridiculous that while Tasmania, Western Australia and Northern NSW have voices in their respective PSLs, the clubs themselves have no say at AFL level."

Whilst I agree with the contest of Mr Anderson's article that the PSL clubs should have a say in their destiny, I do not agree with the use of Northern NSW in the manner stated.

First, Mr Anderson mentioned the name of N. NSW in the same sentence as Western Australia and Tasmania. Any soccer official would know that N. NSW is represented by one of the more successful clubs, Newcastle KB United. So why mention N. NSW in this context? Is it Northern NSW, Victoria or South Australia? I believe the reason to be the slighting of N. NSW once again, and the down-playing of it's role in Australian soccer.

If Mr Anderson was aware of how Newcastle KB United was formed he would know of the extent of this Federation's involvement, which is vastly different to that of most other States with their PSLs.

I might point out that as a member of the ASF executive, representing my State, it would be irresponsible of me not to ensure that any affiliated clubs of this federation were properly represented.

Provided any ASF executive meetings I meet with Newcastle KB United secretary, Mr Paul Trisley, to determine the course of action to be taken, best benefit the clubs and the sport of soccer in general. I doubt whether many other PSL clubs have the same sort of relationship with their state body.

For too long now Northern NSW has been ignored and regarded as the country cousin of Australian soccer, simply because sports officials and sportswriters have not bothered to find out what is happening.

I can assure you, whether you believe it or not, Northern NSW is one of the most progressive in Australia and soccer is expanding rapidly at all levels because of proper administration and promotion.

I invite Mr Anderson and any other members of your staff to visit us in Newcastle to acquaint yourselves with what is happening here. Then, and only then, writers might think twice about using the name of Northern NSW in an uninformed and derogatory manner.

— STEPHEN KAMASZ

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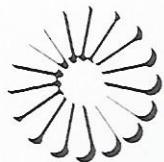
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Socceroos leap into marketplace

The first phase in a new licensing and merchandising programme for soccer has been launched by the Australian Soccer Federation Marketing company.

Thirteen mascot characters called the 'Socceroos' have been released for manufacturers to utilise in product licensing.

Released at the same time is the official Australian Soccer Federation emblem which is being made available to sponsors and licensees in categories of ASF 'Approved Product', ASF 'Official Supplier', ASF 'Dressing Room Product' and ASF 'Official Training Product'.

Rik Booth, executive director of Australian Soccer Federation Marketing Ltd, said: "This is the first step in the introduction of licensing to the sport of soccer in this country. It has always been an anomaly with the game that a sport the size of soccer has lacked any sort of character mascots, or merchandising and endorsement programme in which manufacturers, sponsors or licensees can participate."

"The 'Socceroo' characters are believed to be one of the most original and appealing series of Australian characters ever created in this country for any sport, or indeed for any merchandising programme. We elected to create a full team of 'Socceroos' plus a coach and referee so that licensees can use them either combined or individually. This opens up enormous potential for manufacturers of products who can now produce a complete range of merchandise bearing the individual 'Socceroo'.

The aim of the licensing programme is to generate funds which can be utilised for the development of the sport at all levels, and most particularly at a junior and youth level.

"Two soccer coaching and training books are due for release in the middle of the year, one of which is based solely on the 'Socceroo' characters. We expect the 'Socceroo' characters will become popular quickly with the Australian public particularly with children," Mr Booth said.

"The 'Socceroo' characters are designed to become synonymous with all soccer in Australia and not just any single aspect of it, or specific town."

"Soccer as a sport has some 300,000 boys and girls playing the game at present and it is highly likely with the growth, particularly of junior girls soc-



cer, that the number could reach half a million by the mid 1980's."

"It is a sport where the children are influencing the parents, and the general soccer audience is mainly young, white collar and very family orientated. With such a following the sport therefore has one of the best bases for growth."

The second phase of the overall soccer licensing programme will be the release of the new Philips Soccer League club emblems, each of which has been carefully redesigned with their commercial viability in mind.

This will be followed by the release for licensing purposes of State Soccer Federation emblems, the Australian Soccer Referees Federation emblem, the Australian Women's Soccer Association emblem and the Australian Young Soccer Development Programme emblem.

Meet the team of Socceroos

BRUCE Bruce is the Coach. He once played for Australia as a Socceroo himself. When Bruce gets angry with the team he paces around and stamps his feet. Thankfully he doesn't do anything else because even this makes the earth shake and the grandstand vibrates.

BLUEY He never stops talking. He is always telling tall stories about his various soccer feats and the goals he nearly scored. Bluey has nearly scored more goals than any other player in the team. He is actually a grey kangaroo but goes blue in the face every time he nearly scores a goal.

WEF He's the Referee and got his name because he can't pronounce his 'r'. He claims that he's the best kangaroo referee in Australia. He's older and wiser and although very strict, is also very fair. Wef nearly always loses his whistle during a game because he gets so excited he swallows it.

CAPTAIN AUSTRALIA: Captain of the Socceroo team and very proud of his position. He

makes sure the team behave themselves on the field and that they always play the best they can. All the other players respect his experience and skill. He usually wears the team's cap and rarely misses.

ANGELO Angelo was actually born in Europe. He came to Australia with his family when he was 10 months old. Angelo likes the girls. He simply can't resist them. He talks to them from the sidelines. Even during a game he'll take injury just to get Wef to send him off the field. That way he can go and chat to the girls.

FLICKA He's called this because he always handles the ball with his head. In fact, it's almost impossible for the opposition to get at the ball when he has it in the air. He's been known to even run from the centre line all the way into the opposition's goal mouth bouncing the ball on his head.

JOEY Joey is the youngest member of the Socceroo team. He is also one of the fastest and a bit cheeky. When a television camera comes in range of him he usually whips out a comb and does his hair, he can't resist being the centre of attention. Trouble is, he's often the centre of Wef's attention too!

ROCKET When he gets the ball nothing can stop him. He kicks the ball so hard that everyone ducks. And on the rare occasion he misses the net and hits the goal posts, the ball simply explodes with impact.

SLEEPY Sleepy is the Goalkeeper. His real name is Sleepy but when the Socceroos are attacking the opposition goal he's usually asleep in his own goal area. Wherever he is though, he's nearly always yawning. Even after he's saved the goal, and the crowd and his team cheer, all he does is smile and yawn. So the team called him Sleepy instead.

BENDA Benda is from Queensland. He can curve the ball brilliantly. And he can do it with either foot so the opposition is always in a muddle with him. Because of this he's always used for free kicks.

THUMPER He kicks well with both feet and can be very tricky with the ball. However, when he gets his feelings hurt, when he's trying to outstep the opposition, and trips himself. He got his name from his habit of thumping his tail on the ground every time the team scores a goal.

BIG RED Nearly everyone is terrified of Big Red. He's the biggest member of the team. And he's got the biggest temper too. When he runs with the ball the ferocious look on his face is enough to terrify anyone.

BULLET He can play the ball with either foot and he's used as a Stopper by the coach. He's scored many goals by taking goal kicks and putting the ball in the other team's net with one almighty kick. Each time he does he leaps in the air with a mighty jump and does a somersault.



BULLET



ROCKET



ANGELA



Mike Johnson

WOLLONGONG, for so long ignored by state and national soccer federations suddenly finds itself with three federation teams.

The new Wollongong City team is the region national league status.

There are also two teams in NSW State League division 1.

One is my own Wollongong United, the other is Fairy Meadow.

Fairy Meadow has just been allowed into the State League setup after dominating local soccer in Wollongong for several years.

It has immediately shown its strength by beating Monaro 2-0 on its debut in the Ampol Cup.

Fairy Meadow is sponsored by the Illawarra-backed Fraternity Club of Wollongong.

My team, Wollongong United, is sponsored by the Macedonian church. The supporters and many of the players are of Macedonian background plus several players of Italian parentage.

There are no Englishmen involved in the club, apart from myself, and no English players.

This is in stark contrast with the newly-formed Wollongong City which along with its English coach, has a team of English players, all of whom have signed either directly from England or via Perth, Tasmania and New Zealand.

Three local players signed recently from my club Ray Vlietstra, Glen Montana and Natch Vardareff, plus another Jack Morlando are also in the first team squad.

Suddenly it's all happening

Wollongong is made up of more than 30 nationalities and there is some interest in the city that its major club and soccer standard-bearer is virtually exclusively English in its playing make-up.

This unrest will subside if results are reasonable, but will tend to surface whenever bad results come along.

Results are what coaching and professional sport is all about.

The Sydney Press had underestimated Fairy Meadow and did not give them a chance against Monaro in the Ampol Cup.

Fairy Meadow coach, Hugh Tinney, has been a fine player in Wollongong for many years, but had to confine himself to Wollongong district soccer, apart from a brief spell at State league level with the now defunct Safeway United.

The Wollongong car firm, Safeway, was one of the very first major sponsors of club soccer in this country, big enough to cause the NSW Soccer Federation to change the name of South Coast United to Safeway United to please the sponsor.

Safeway got that privilege for providing just \$10,000 a year.

The Wollongong shopping complex are putting in a lot more than that for their association with Wollongong City in Philips League.

The season is a crucial one for all three Wollongong clubs.

The first year in Philips league is not easy. Canterbury and Newcastle both found it.

However, Wollongong is starting with more money than either of these teams had at the start, which has enabled Ken Morton to assemble a useful squad.

On the other hand he does not have the luxury of one year's grace. If Wollongong finishes last, the guillotine will fall, just as it was poised over 1980 newcomer Blacktown City all of last year.

For Fairy Meadow it is a push to get promoted into state league.

The Fairy Meadow club has seen Wollongong United just miss promotion by one point on each of the two years it has been in 1st division.

Two years ago North Sydney pipped United by one point.

Last year Polonia did the same by one point.

Last year for myself and players there was the consolation of winning the grand final.

But in soccer, I believe their is no prize as important as promotion to a higher league.

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

A trip to the Pele Soccer Camp in New York is being organised by the Johnny Warren Soccer Academy.

Boys who take the trip will attend Pele's camp from July 5 to 12.

Also included are a visit to Disneyland, Universal Studios and even a helicopter flight over New York.

It's a trip of a lifetime!

The trip starts on July 1 and the party will be back in Sydney on July 16.

Cost is \$1150 per child and \$1603 per adult.

Most information is available from Johnny Warren Soccer Academy, PO Box 362, Belconnen, 2607, ACT; or Neckermann Tours, Box 5071, GPO Sydney 2001, NSW (phone 02/264 3224).



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THE VICTORIAN SCENE



Elvio Pugliese learns the hard way in the Slavia goal.

Murney angered by McElhinney more

The good relationship between Victorian Metro First Division clubs Park Rangers and Morwell Falcons has ended according to Rangers' coach Hugh Murney.

"Last week the Falcons signed Paddy McElhinney and I'm really sorry to see him go," said Murney.

"I rate Caddy as the best midfielder in the Metro Leagues. "What angers me is the way things were done behind my back," he added.

"A few weeks ago Paddy came to me and told me that Falcons had made him an offer but he decided to turn it down."

"Then we played a practice game two weeks ago on a Saturday, and someone from Falcons management approach to Paddy. The next day Sunday, he was playing in a practice match for them and at training on Tuesday might be told me he'd decided to accept their offer."

"Imagine a player as good as McElhinney switching clubs for only \$200," Murney added.

Falcons have swooped up at least four players in a move which has established them as favorites for the First Division title.

The club has signed Frankston City keeper Bill Whiteside, Albion Rovers midfielder Jimmy MacKay and Sandringham midfielder Paul Thomson and is keen to sign disgruntled Doveton winger Alan Quin.

It looks likely that the Falcons will regain the services of Irishman Tommy Lakey and Scotsman Graham Irvine, both of whom are overseas.

Parties Rangers hope to sign Ian McCarthy from Richmond for \$1,000 and are in the market for Quin.

Rangers' keeper Paul Vassiliou was reported to be going to State League newcomer Northcote for about \$3,500 but the deal has fallen through and he will stay with Rangers.

The Rangers are trying to sign Tom O'Halloran but Terry Hargreaves looks likely to sign with Frankston Pines for about \$200.

"Losing McElhinney has made us more determined to get a good side together," said Murney.

"I'm badly in need of a striker and I think our aim this year will be to consolidate our First Division status."

"It's not easy to compete with Falcons' money."

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Pugliese shuns State League

Good Victorian State League keepers must have reached plague proportions this year.

That's the only conclusion you can draw when the top polling keeper in the 1980 Rothmans Medal hasn't been approached by other clubs.

And he's on a free transfer because of his amateur status! But Slavia keeper Elvio Pugliese has snubbed the State League and is heading for Italy on March 11 in the most daring move of his short goalkeeping life.

Pugliese will trial with Italian Second Division club Taranto for three months. Depending on the outcome of the trial he could be in Italy for at least a year.

"My uncle is president of a lower provincial club close to Taranto and he arranged the trial," said Pugliese.

"Soccer at that level is big business. There must be thousands of guys trying to make it and you've got to get the breaks to succeed."

"What one manager sees in one player he mightn't see in another. With goalkeepers luck plays an important part in whether you get signed or not. You've got to hope that you make the right saves at the right times when the manager is watching."

"But if I don't make it with Taranto I'll knock on many doors as I can till I get a chance to prove myself."

From the lower rungs of the Metropolitan League to Slavia to Taranto would be a meteoric rise. Especially within two years. Pugliese had a strong athletic background before turning to soccer.

He held the Victoria under-12 shot put and discus titles and in 1972 he was the Victoria under-15 and under-16 judo champion.

He switched to soccer with one of his friends in 1974 and Metro Fourth Division club Sandringham was closest to his home.

"When I went down to Sandy for the first time I can remember walking into the clubrooms and seeing a group of guys lounging about drinking beer. I couldn't believe it when I found out that half of them were on the committee. Then I went out and trained and one of the players wanted to fight the coach. I wondered what I'd got myself into."

"I realize now that soccer rise should have gone there."

"If I'd joined a bigger club I could have learned more from more skilful players. And had I learned at an earlier age I could have gone further than I have done so far."

Pugliese started with Sandringham's third team because he wasn't good enough for the reserves. The reserve team keeper had two fingers missing. Not exactly a confidence booster for a 17 year old.

Eventually Sandringham was desperate for a first team keeper. Pugliese and present Frankston Pines keeper Dave Stutchbury were vying for the number one spot.

When Pugliese got his chance he quickly established himself. He soon gained a reputation as one of the most aggressive keepers in the Metropolitan League.

"The Fourth Division is rough and tough and I was forced to learn to protect myself."

"Local derbies between Sandringham and Moorabbin were always hard fought. Some of these Moorabbin guys would do anything to score. You had no choice but to match their aggression," said Pugliese.

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Harry Chalkitis was coach of Slavia in 1980 when Pugliese joined. Chalkitis had tried to sign the promising keeper a year earlier but Pugliese found it hard to leave his friends at Sandringham. So why did he finally make the break and why did he choose Slavia?

"The year I knocked back Harry's offer was a good one for me because I gained a lot of confidence. I dominated the area that year. It's probably the only good thing I gained at Sandringham."

"I picked Slavia because I thought I would get a chance to prove myself there. I was adamant that I would remain an amateur because I wanted to see if I could prove myself in the State League."

"I didn't want to be tied down at the end of my first State League season and I was warned by many players that Slavia was notorious for obtaining players at reasonably cheap prices and getting rid of them for a substantial profit."

"But Slavia's not the only club guilty of treating some players like that. The difference at Slavia is that buying and selling players has become an important part of the club's survival. Without the profit made on some player deals and the money given to the club by John Kosmar and Vince French I think Slavia would really struggle to survive."

Pugliese's initial State League season was promising. He looked nervous and his inexperience showed on a number of occasions in early matches but as the season progressed he got into the rhythm of the higher standard.

"One I settled in I found the State League to be easy. It really isn't as glamorous as lower league players think it is and I reckon that any young guy with potential should give the State League a go. He might be surprised when he finds out that it's not the great jump in standard he thought it was."

Pugliese's biggest bug bear is the lack of expert goalkeeper training in Australia.

"Training for keepers is almost non-existent here."

"No-one has helped me work on my angles or my catching techniques. I've had to pick up bits and pieces from watching other keepers. It's a hopeless situation if you're keen to improve yourself. Take a look around and see how many keepers here are competent at taking goal kicks. See how many can throw out with either hand."

On December 5 last year Pugliese quit his job with Telecom to prepare himself for his assault on the professional world of Italian soccer.

He trains five nights a week and has been involved in intensive gymnasium work to improve his muscle tone and build up his shoulders and upper body.

Trialling with Taranto is his greatest challenge.

"I've got to find out if I can compete at that level of professionalism. I've got nothing to lose and hopefully I'll learn a great deal about the technique of goalkeeping."

"I can only gain by the experience."

If Pugliese succeeds there will be a few red faced club officials in the State League.



The above picture Newcastle KB winger Graham Heys attempting an overhead kick against St. George in a 1980 PSL match.
Our reader's picture was submitted by Harry Carroll of 57 Kingsway Avenue, Rankin Park, Newcastle.

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**SOCER
ACTION**

Back Row, left to right: Joe Willan (Coach), Fabio Infantakpo (from Juniors), Paul Romano (from Juniors), John Creany (from Scotland 1980), Harry Hind (from Altona 1981), Lucio Saisi (from Croydon 1981), Peter Donaldson (from Sunshine 1981), Lou Salai (from Croydon 1981), Alex Fantoma (from Clayton 1979), John Innes (assistant coach).
Front Row: Paul Petridis (from Yarraville 1981), Fausto Tarquino (from Juniors), Mendo Ristovski (from Hellas 1980), John DiQuattro (from Juniors), Charlie Smith (from Scotland 1981, ex-Patrick Thistle), Lou Samipoli (from Juniors).
Inset: Bobby McGuinness (from Hellas 1978).

Juventus was formed in 1948 by Tony Iannucci, the first president. When former Olympic cyclist Nino Borsetti took over the club's rise gathered full momentum. Juventus has had countless Victorian representatives and many Soccerex. It stands alongside South Melbourne and Footscray as one of the most successful clubs in the pre-war history of Victorian soccer. Its impressive honours list includes: Third Division champion 1949; First Division champion 1952, 53, 54, 55, 56; State league champion 1958, 1970; Dickerby Cup winner 1960, 70, 71, 72, 77; Armstrong Cup winner 1952, 55, 66; State League Cup winner 1958, 69, 70; Ampol Cup winner 1959; "World Cup" winner (es) 1955, 60.

Official Camera of
the 1978 Soccer World Cup
Buenos Aires, Argentina.





Tony Labbozetta with the 1980 Philips Cup, won by Marconi.

MARCONI BOSS

Italian national coach Enzo Bearzot and one of his predecessors, Ferucio Valcareggi, may be brought to Australia by Marconi for coaching seminars in May.

The Philips League must aim at breaking itself into two — an eastern and a western division, with the winners playing off for the national championship.

Rudi Gutendorf must limit his demands on PSL players, lest he weakens clubs in the PSL championship. It is more important to have strong clubs than a strong national team.

The new PSL club nick-names are just that — they are not to replace the existing names.

Renato Colosso may be heading back to Marconi.

These are some of the highlights of an interview by "Soccer Action" editor Laurie Schwab with Marconi president Tony Labbozetta, leader of one of the most successful clubs in Australian soccer.

Labbozetta is asked about the Scheinflug-Vieri drama of last year, the soccer marketing scheme and much more...

SCHWAB: Many supporters are saying that the new club nick-names are making Philips League stars feel like a laughing stock. Even some of the clubs are saying so, yet the clubs themselves voted to introduce the nick-names. Please explain.

LABBOZETTA: Yes, we gave our approval to the nick-names. We hope they'll help form a new group of people to the game. We have non-committed supporters, and we're in no danger of losing them. What we want now is the non-committed, maybe even fans

of other codes. Maybe it's easier for such people to identify with the nick names, but it's too early to say.

SCHWAB: But names of this type are out of character with Australian soccer which has vastly different traditions.

LABBOZETTA: OK, they may be hard for us to take, but we at least can have a go. Let's give it a chance.

SCHWAB: But the names have been changing with such regularity that the fans must be getting thoroughly confused.

LABBOZETTA: It is confusing, initially. Our club added the suburb name of Fairfield onto the existing name, Marconi. This created closer contact with the community, it led to various functions with the local council, and local people got more involved with us.

SCHWAB: Now, according to the PSL, you're not Marconi Fairfield, but Marconi Leopards.

LABBOZETTA: As far as I'm concerned, Leopards is not our official name, but rather a nickname, like Stixies in Rugby League for example. A talking point, nothing more.

SCHWAB: But the PSL apparently wants these names popularised and constantly used by the media. This leads to another problem. Specialist papers aimed at the converted will use the traditional names to cater to the wishes of its readers. Daily papers may use the new nick-names. The ethnic papers, I am sure, will use the nick-names.

LABBOZETTA: They're not likely to do. The names wouldn't translate. They'd be laughable.

SCHWAB: So there will continue to be confusion.

LABBOZETTA: Look, we have to try to develop a system of our own.

SCHWAB: But this is not our own. It is stolen from the United States.

LABBOZETTA: Maybe our society can absorb American ideas more readily than European ideas. Look at what's acceptable to the marketplace today. Most marketing is US-oriented.

SCHWAB: Are you satisfied with the activities of the ASF marketing division so far?

PSL should split into two sections

social club as their foundation?

SCHWAB: Isn't it true though, that those social clubs could drop their soccer activities if they deemed them too much of a financial burden? Western Suburbs did just that.

LABBOZETTA: Sure, if they decided soccer was no longer a proposition, they could withdraw their support, but that isn't likely to happen to the clubs I've mentioned.

SCHWAB: What kind of a difference does Marconi make on soccer activities?

LABBOZETTA: We could be down \$40,000 or \$50,000 a year, but we make up for it in other ways. The social club, for example, makes money from having people at the games.

SCHWAB: Adelaide City announced a huge deficit of several thousand dollars last year ...

LABBOZETTA: That was largely due to its building expenditure.

SCHWAB: Everyone in the league hopes for increased attendance to ease financial strain. Do you think crowds will go up this year?

LABBOZETTA: We've got TV back on board. This will help stimulate interest. The 50-50 supporters may come back permanently. People who gave soccer away years ago, may be lured back through TV. The sports fan who would otherwise take the kids to the Rugby may instead decide to go down the road to see Marconi.

SCHWAB: You don't think that the very nature of Channel 9 means it is preaching to the converted?

LABBOZETTA: Not at all. I speak to Australian friends and tell me they often watch Channel 9 because they enjoy the change and appreciate the quality of the programmes.

SCHWAB: It's also important to the PSL and to the progress of soccer in general that the national team qualifies for the World Cup finals. Are you confident it will do so?

LABBOZETTA: I think we have an excellent chance. I really believe that. However, I don't think the players are really mentally prepared at the moment. There have been a lot of problems with Rudi Gutendorf, which makes it hard for the boys.

SCHWAB: Could you explain that ...

LABBOZETTA: He's been criticising his players in the Press. If a player has a problem, he should help sort it out as quickly and effectively as possible. He's said that Krunicic has had personal problems lately. Instead of saying so in the papers, he should have got together with Krunicic and helped iron out the problems. He talks about professionalism but we can't treat our players as if they were professionals because the fact is that they are not. They are semi-professionals. That is the reality of the situation.

SCHWAB: If Australia doesn't qualify for the World Cup, will interest in soccer decline, with the result that PSL attendances will fall?

LABBOZETTA: It shouldn't effect us greatly. We weren't affected much in 1978, the year after we failed to qualify for the last World Cup. Many other countries fail to qualify, and it isn't a big calamity. As far as we go, just as the marketing people with a wonderful opportunity to boost the domestic game.

SCHWAB: You have Prstko, Janjicic, Krunicic, Hanover, Shear and Meth in the senior team and Apostopoulos and Colosso in the youth team. Can you seriously expect league success in the light of the demands that will be made on these players this year?

LABBOZETTA: In the end, it's the clubs that have to succeed, not the national team. Without strong clubs, we do not have a strong national team and we do not have a soccer future. I will talk to Rudi and ask him to keep his demands reasonable.

SCHWAB: Many people will argue that the national team is more important than the clubs. Rudi certainly would. But while talking about keeping

MONEY MAGIC with Michael Morley



So far this year I have been recommending planned entries costing between \$1.50 and \$5. If there are any 'pools punters' readers who want to invest in a more expensive plan but are not sure how to go about it, then please write to me ('Soccer Action' and I will do my best to help you).

Many of this week's matches look evenly balanced and it could pay you to select a few games from each ladder in both the English and Scottish divisions.

One game that appeals in particular as a score draw is the English first division encounter between Coventry and Ipswich. Although Ipswich are one of the main contenders in this season's championship race, they haven't fared too well at Coventry in recent years. From the past six corresponding matches on this ground, the score stands at two home wins for Coventry while the other four games were drawn. The scores were: 4-2, 2-1, 1-1, 0-0 and 3-1. Ipswich are undoubtedly the better side on recent form, but I have a feeling that Coventry will hold them to another draw. In the same division we see the struggling Leicester held out against Notts Forest. Also in this ladder was a close draw between Northampton and Brighton who are both having a poor season, while Tottenham look good enough to take one point from their visit to Sunderland.

In the second division I expect to see some close results at Bristol R., Grimsby, Oldham and Q.P.R. The strongest looking home winners in this ladder appear to be Cambridge and Notts C., and West Ham seem assured of both points in its journey to Watford.

In division one I expect to see some close results at Bristol R., Grimsby, Oldham and Q.P.R. The strongest looking home winners in this ladder appear to be Cambridge and Notts C., and West Ham seem assured of both points in its journey to Watford.

Take care in the choice of your best two selections as these will be used in each entry of the investment.

With eight score draws in any one of the four system entries you would automatically be assured of a first dividend.

If your best two selections are score draws and you have a further nine score draws falling anywhere among your other matches, you would be certain of having at least four lines containing seven score draws in your entry.

Until next week, good luck and good punting.

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Take care in the choice of your best two selections as these will be used in each entry of the investment.

With eight score draws in any one of the four system entries you would automatically be assured of a first dividend.

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Philips League Club Directory

ADELAIDE GIANTS

P.O. BOX 534, NORWOOD, S.A., 5067
 SECRETARY: C. Picarello (08) 223 0230 (Bus).
 COACH: B. D'ottavi
 GROUND: Olympic Sportsfield, Kensington
 (08) 332 5614, 332 5618

COLOURS: Black, white
 This week's match: v MARCONI LEOPARDS at Hindmarsh Stadium (Adelaide) Sunday 2.30 pm



ADELAIDE HAWKS

G.P.O. BOX 1130, ADELAIDE, SA, 5001
 SECRETARY: P. Stilianopolous (08) 352 1494
 COACH: B. Birch
 GROUND: Hindmarsh Stadium, Manton St.
 COLOURS: Blue white stripes, blue shorts

SPONSOR: Dominion Finance
 This week's match: v SYDNEY SLICKERS at Barton Stadium (Sydney) Sunday 3 pm



BLACKTOWN DEMONS

62 SEVEN HILLS ROAD NORTH, SEVEN HILLS 2147
 624 3344
 SECRETARY: P. R. Thorne (624 3344)
 COACH: R. Rasic
 GROUND: Gabbie Stadium, Quinn Ave, Seven Hills
 COLOURS: White, red blk trim

Black, red white trim Black, red white
 This week's match: v NEWCASTLE KB RAIDERS at International Sports Centre (Newcastle) Sunday 3 pm



BRISBANE GLADIATORS

P.O. BOX 265 BROADWAY, BRISBANE 4001
 Ph: 356 8834
 SECRETARY: G. Canale (07) 52 4711
 COACH: G. Potter
 GROUND: Spencer Park
 SPONSOR: Stock 84 Brandy

This week's match: v CANBERRA ARROWS at Spencer Park (Brisbane) Sunday 3 pm



BRISBANE LIONS

P.O. BOX 310 DARRA, QLD, 4076
 SECRETARY: L. Oudendyk
 COACH: M. Carson
 GROUND: Lions Stadium, Pine Rd., Richlands
 (07) 372 2989
 COLOURS: Orange and Blue

This week's match: v LEICHARDT STRIKERS at Lambert Park (Sunday) 3 pm



CANBERRA ARROWS

P.O. BOX 910 CANBERRA CITY, ACT 2601 (062) 48 8215
 SECRETARY: R. Preston 48 8215
 COACH: G. Murray
 GROUND: National Athletic Stadium, Bruce
 SPONSOR: "Lotto"
 COLOURS: White with multi colour stripes

This week's match: v BRISBANE GLADIATORS at Spencer Park (Brisbane) Sunday 3 pm



HEIDELBERG WARRIORS

P.O. BOX 8, COLLINGWOOD, 3066
 MANAGER: O. Norris 792 9348 (Bus)
 459 4652 (AH)
 SECRETARY: S. Rombotis 428 3720
 COACH: M. Polukakis
 GROUND: Olympic Park (03) 42 0642
 COLOURS: Blk and gold

This week's match: v SOUTH MELB GUNNERS at Middle Park (Melbourne) Sunday 3 pm



FOOTSCRAY EAGLES

P.O. BOX 122, ST KILDA SOUTH, 3182
 SECRETARY: L. Tanovski, 470 4734
 COACH: C. Cirkovic
 GROUND: Schintler Reserve, Footscray Road, Footscray
 COLOURS: Blue, white, red.



This week's match: v WOLLONGONG WOLVES at Wollongong Showgrounds (Wollongong) Sunday 3 pm

LEICHARDT STRIKERS

38-42 FRAZER ST, LEICHARDT, 2040
 SECRETARY: H. Ambrose (02) 516 1688
 COACH: W. Wallace
 GROUND: Lambert Park, 569 6845 (match day)
 PROMOTION OFFICER: T. Raciti 82 0187
 COLOURS: Maroon, sky blue



This week's match: v BRISBANE LIONS at Lambert Park (Sunday) 3 pm

NEWCASTLE KB RAIDERS

4 NORTHWOOD ST, ADAMSTOWN HEIGHTS, 2289
 SECRETARY: P. Trisley (049) 24 930 (Bus)
 COACH: A. VEST
 GROUND: International Sports Centre,
 Turton Rd, New Lambton (049) 52 1224
 SPONSOR: Tooth & Co, Brewers of KB Beer



This week's match: v BLACKTOWN DEMONS at International Sports Centre (Newcastle) Sunday 3 pm

MARCONI LEOPARDS

MARCONI ROAD, BOSSLEY PARK, NSW 2176
 SECRETARY: M. Urukalo (02) 604 5095
 604 5222
 COACH: R. Blanco
 GROUND: Marconi Stadium, Marconi Rd, Bossley Park
 COLOURS: White & red, blue trim



This week's match: v ADELAIDE GIANTS at Hindmarsh Stadium (Adelaide) Sunday 2.30 pm

PRESTON RAMS

211 SMITH ST, FITZROY, VIC 3065
 SECRETARY: P. Mouka 651 2401
 COACH: B. Edgley
 GROUND: B. T. Connor Reserve,
 Cnr Radford Rd & Broadhurst Ave, Reservoir.
 COLOURS: Red, black, gold
 This week's match: v SYDNEY OLYMPIANS at B. T. Connor Reserve (Melbourne) Sunday 3 pm

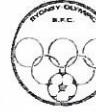
STH. MELBOURNE GUNNERS

P.O. BOX 64, ST KILDA WEST, Vic, 3182
 HONORARY SECRETARY: N. Sagiakos,
 528 6196 (Bus) (Restaurant 534 4141)
 COACH: J. Margaritis
 GROUND: Middle Park Stadium, Middle Park
 COLOR: Blue and white.
 This week's match: v HEIDELBERG WARRIORS at Middle Park (Melbourne) Sunday 3 pm



SYDNEY OLYMPIANS

P.O. BOX 291 WATERLOO, N.S.W. 2017
 SECRETARY: N. Smillis 88 1337
 COACH: T. Docherty
 GROUND: Pratten Park
 COLOURS: Royal blue, white



This week's match: v PRESTON RAMS at B. T. Connor Reserve (Melbourne) Sunday 3 pm

SYDNEY SLICKERS

61 HALL ST, BONDI, N.S.W. 2026
 SECRETARY: D. Childs (02) 30 3344 (Bus)
 (AH) 525 7734
 COACH: E. Thomson
 GROUND: Sydney Sports Ground
 SPONSOR: Presto Smallgoods
 COLOURS: Sky blue, white hoops (White shorts) red socks
 This week's match: v ADELAIDE HAWKS at Barton Stadium (Sydney) Sunday 3 pm



WOLLONGONG WOLVES

P.O. BOX 1706 WOLLONGONG
 SECRETARY: R. Drake (042) 29 2018 (Bus)
 COACH: K. Morton
 GROUND: Wollongong Showgrounds
 COLOURS: Red, white trim

This week's match: v FOOTSCRAY EAGLES at Wollongong Showgrounds (Wollongong) Sunday 3 pm